



4th Grade Student Essay Contest Guidelines



Please read closely.

2020 Archaeology & Historic Preservation Month

“This Place Matters”

- The participant must be a resident of and a student in the state of South Dakota.
- The participant must be in the 4th grade or, if home schooled, at the age associated with the 4th grade as submitted to the SD Department of Education.
- The subject matter of the essay should be a structure (building, house, bridge, tower, etc.) or landscape (park, farm, mountain, etc.) located in South Dakota and at least 50 years old. It should be a student's favorite place, not necessarily historic.
- Why does this place matter to you? The participant must describe the location, why it is a favorite place of theirs, and why it should be preserved. A history of the site is not necessary.
- The essay may be handwritten or typed on a computer.
 - If handwritten, it must be double-spaced on 8-1/2" by 11" wide-ruled white paper, written in pencil or ink only on the front of the each page, and written neatly with no cross-outs.
 - If done on a computer, it must be double-spaced on 8-1/2" by 11" plain white paper using a 12 point Arial font, printed only on the front of each page.
- The participant's name should not be written anywhere on the front of the essay.
- The title of the essay should be written at the top left margin of the first page.
- On the line below the title, write the name and location of the site being discussed in the essay. Examples are “My Grandpa Johnson's farm in Turner County” or “The Capitol Building in Pierre.”
- There should be a double space between the line mentioned above and the body of the essay.
- The essay should have no less than 100 words and no more than 400 words.
- The final page of the essay should include only three lines. At the top left margin, handwrite or type your name. On the line below that, write the name of your school and the name of the town where the school is located. The third line should have your teacher's name written on it.
- Please paper clip the pages together with the entry form on top - **no** staples.
- Entries will be judged by volunteers based on quality of writing, content and theme, and originality of thought.
- The essay must be the student's original work.
- Only one entry per student may be submitted.
- One completed entry form with all necessary signatures must be submitted with the essay.
- Home-schooled participants do not need to complete the school information section or obtain a teacher's signature on the entry form.
- **Do not staple entry form to essay, and do not staple the essay.**
- Entries may be mailed via the U.S. Postal Service. They may also be scanned or saved as an Adobe pdf document and e-mailed. Both addresses are located at the bottom of the entry form.
- By entering this contest, the student gives the South Dakota State Historical Society unrestricted rights and permissions for use of the essay.

For more details, including an entry form, please visit our website at history.sd.gov/preservation or contact Cindy Snow at 605-773-2907 or cindy.snow@state.sd.us.

Entries must be postmarked no later than Friday, March 13, 2020 to the address on the registration form. E-mailed entries must have a date & time stamp no later than 11:59 p.m. on March 13, 2020.